

I rely on accurate, balanced news of local events and the world to keep me informed, aware and active.

Creating a monopoly of broadcast ownership is such a clear mistake I'm baffled why anyone would even consider it. The conflict of interest inherent in having one company own an entire town's radio stations is truly frightening. Case in point - "... radio listeners in Minot, North Dakota. They have only one choice on the dial: Clear Channel Communications. That media Goliath owns all six of Minot's radio stations. In January 2002, a train derailed in the early morning hours and released a toxic cloud of ammonia fertilizer into the air. Minot officials called the six stations to issue warnings to the public, but were unable to reach a live person. Clear Channel says the lines were busy and employees weren't properly trained on how to use the emergency broadcast signal. Either way, the public was not protected." (pulled from Rose Aguilar's News We Can Use)

It is a mistake to equate freedom of speech with access to information. Just because we have a constitutional right to speak our mind about issues does not mean we have a constitutional right to access to unbiased information about issues. We cannot discuss what we do not know. And having media giants own the bulk of our radio stations, television channels and newspapers means that we only have access to what the media giants think we should hear about.

Will they mention a win by a local football team or fill the space with an ad for a national product? Will they choose to focus on an expose of sweat shop conditions or run a clothing ad? Will they support local artists and musicians or play the latest pop sensation? Where do you want your news coming from? A corporate structure designed to promote profit or a company focused on accurate, informative, pertinent content.

Keep our news free. Stop the information monopoly.